

IN THE CLAIMS

--1. (Currently Amended)

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An information processing apparatus having unique identification information connected to a network with one or more of other ~~an external~~ information processing apparatus apparatuses each connected to said network and each having unique identification information ~~via a network and having at least one sub-unit for executing a predetermined function~~, said information processing apparatus comprising:

function execution means for executing a predetermined function;

communication means for communicating with said other information processing apparatus connected to said network by sending and/or receiving packets on said network;

input means for inputting reservation information concerning a reservation of said predetermined function ~~the sub-unit~~;

storage means for storing the reservation information concerning the reservation of said predetermined function ~~the sub-unit~~; and

supply means for reading out the reservation information stored in said storage means and supplying the reservation information to said other external information processing apparatus connected to said network via said communication means in response to a request from said other external information processing apparatus connected to said network.

2. (Currently Amended)

An information processing apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising writing means for writing the reservation information of the sub-unit of said information processing apparatus into said storage means and for writing reservation information of a sub-unit of said external other information processing apparatus into storage

means of said external information processing apparatus when a reservation is made for using the ~~sub-unit of~~ said information processing apparatus in cooperation with ~~the sub-unit of~~ said ~~external~~ other information processing apparatus at the same time.

3. (Currently Amended) An information processing apparatus according to claim 2, further comprising comparison means for comparing the reservation information input by said input means with the reservation information stored in said storage means of said information processing apparatus and the reservation information of said storage means of said ~~external~~ other information processing apparatus ~~including the sub-unit to be used at the same time as the sub-unit of said information processing apparatus;~~

wherein said writing means writes the reservation information in accordance with a comparison result obtained by said comparison means.

4. (Currently Amended) An information processing apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said writing means restricts the reservation information to be written into said storage means of said information processing apparatus from said ~~external~~ other information storage apparatus when said writing means writes the reservation information into said storage means of said information processing apparatus.

5. (Currently Amended) An information processing apparatus according to claim 4, wherein said writing means interrupts said ~~external~~ other information processing apparatus from reading the reservation information from said storage means of said information processing apparatus when said writing means writes the reservation information into said

storage means of said information processing apparatus.

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6. (Currently Amended) An information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said storage means stores limitation information concerning a limitation of the reservation information to be stored, and said supply means supplies the limitation information to said ~~external~~ other information processing apparatus in response to a request ~~form~~ from said ~~external~~ other information processing apparatus.

7. (Original) An information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said storage means stores the reservation information at a predetermined address position.

8. (Currently Amended) An information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the reservation information includes a ~~subunit~~ start time ~~at which the use of the sub-unit is started~~ and a period for using ~~the sub-unit~~.

9. (Currently Amended) An information processing apparatus according to claim 8, wherein the period for using ~~the sub-unit~~ is set as an undefined value.

10. (Currently Amended) An information processing apparatus according to claim 8, wherein the reservation information includes apparatus information concerning the information processing apparatus ~~that reserves the sub-unit~~, and the apparatus information is stored at an address position subsequent to the address positions of the ~~sub-unit~~ start time and the period for using ~~the sub-unit~~.

11. (Currently Amended) An information processing apparatus according to claim 8, wherein the ~~sub-unit~~ start time is represented by a binary-coded decimal.

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12. (Original) An information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said storage means further stores identification information for identifying the stored reservation information.

13. (Currently Amended) An information processing apparatus according to claim 12, wherein the identification information includes a value unique to the information processing apparatus that has made a reservation ~~reserved the sub-unit~~ and a value unique to the reservation set in said information processing apparatus.

14. (Original) An information processing apparatus according to claim 13, wherein the value unique to the information processing apparatus is a global unique ID and the value unique to the reservation is a record ID.

15. (Currently Amended) An information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the reservation information includes weekly reservation information ~~of the sub-unit~~ that is weekly reserved by specifying a day of the week.

16. (Currently Amended) An information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the reservation information includes interval reservation information ~~of the sub-unit~~.

unit that is repeatedly reserved at a predetermined interval.

17. (Canceled)

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18. (Original) An information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said network is formed by using an IEEE1394 serial data bus.

19. (Currently Amended) An information processing method for use in an information processing apparatus having unique identification information connected to a network with one or more of other an external information processing apparatuses each connected to said network and each having unique identification information apparatus via a network and having at least one sub-unit for executing a predetermined function, said information processing method comprising:

a function execution step of executing a predetermined function;

a communication step of communicating with said other information processing apparatus connected to said network by sending and/or receiving packets on said network;

an input step of inputting reservation information concerning a reservation of said predetermined function the sub-unit;

a storage control step of controlling storage of the reservation information concerning the reservation of said predetermined function the sub-unit; and

a supply step of reading out the reservation information stored by processing of said storage control step and of supplying the reservation information to said external other information processing apparatus connected to said network in response to a request from said

~~external~~ other information processing apparatus connected to said network.

20. (Currently Amended)

A recording medium for recording a program

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executable by a computer, said program for controlling an information processing apparatus having unique identification information connected to a network with one or more of other an ~~external~~ information processing apparatuses each connected to said network and each having unique identification information ~~apparatus via a network and having at least one sub-unit for~~ executing a predetermined function, said program comprising:

a function execution step of executing a predetermined function;

a communication step of communicating with said other information processing
apparatus connected to said network by sending and/or receiving packets on said network;

an input step of inputting reservation information concerning a reservation of said
predetermined function ~~the sub-unit~~;

a storage control step of controlling storage of the reservation information concerning the
reservation of said predetermined function ~~the sub-unit~~; and

a supply step of reading out the reservation information stored by processing of said
storage control step and of supplying the reservation information to said other external
information processing apparatus connected to said network in response to a request from said
~~external other~~ information processing apparatus connected to said network.
